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H – 961

International Court of Justice

H0961 -0002

COMM A
4-13
Gallagher
17 June

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 of the ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 March 1946.

17 June 1946.

COMMISSIONERS:

CAPTAIN JOSEPH TUBRIDY.

GESTAPO

(TheCommission convened at 1600 hours)

FRANZ STRAUB, a witness took the stand and testified as follows:

BY CAPTAIN TUBRIDY:

Q Will you give your full name, please?

A Franz Straub.

Q Will you repeat this oath after me:

I swear to God, the Almighty and Onmiscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

(The witness repeated the oath)

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: You may sit down.

DR. MERKEL: I want to question this witness on the organization tasks and activities of the Security Police in Belgium and France from 1914 to 1944. Further, on the organization duties and methods of the Secret Military Police, the Military Gendarme, and the Superior SS and Police Leader in France and northern France and Belgium for the same time.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: You have a written statement?

BY DR. MERKEL: Will you please explain briefly your professional career?

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A In 1913 I entered the Police System of Munich. In 1919 I entered the administrative department of the Administrative Police in Munich,and in 1922 I passed my examination in the meantime, and I was doing civil service work in the police administration. In 1932 I went over to the Criminal Police Department of Munich,the police service, and in the same year I was ordered and transferred to Passau as commander of the frontier protection police service in Passau. In 1937 I was transferred from the Bavarian Country Service, or Land Service into the Reich Service,but Iwas ordered to remain with the frontier police andin Passauuntil 1938, and in 1938 I was recalled by the State Police,and officed in Munich. I was employed there in the Police Security work, and atthe outbreak of war, on 26 August 1939, I was drafted into the service, Command 7 Security Department,and Ireceived here a rank of Senior Inspector. On 13 June Iwas discharged by the unit --

M MONERRAY: What year?

THE WITNESS: 1940, and in the beginning ofJuly 1940 I was sent to the military commander of Belgium with the Security Police commander. In 1943 I was promoted to the position of Criminal Director. This is the highest office one can hold in the intermediate,and I was in civil service work,and remained in Belgium until the German retreat,that is the 2 September 1944. I returned to Munich at the end of September 1944, but was sent as special mission to the Gestapo Main Office in Vienna without doing any service duty with the Gestapo Main Office in Munich. My special missioncould not be carried out, however, because of the conference that was supposed to have taken place concerning this special mission,which never did take place,and no personnel was placed at my disposal for carrying out of this special mission. Towards the end of February 1945 I became ill and wasreturned, or sent back to Munich.

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On 2nd April I was returned to Munich because I was unable to do anything in further service.

Q Were you a member of the National Socialist Party?

A I became a member of the National Socialist Party in May 1937.

Q Were you a member of the SS?

A By reason ofthe coordinating decree 1939 I received the rank of Hauptsturmfuehrer,and when I was appointed Criminal Director I became Sturmbannfuehrer.

Q When was the military commander for Belgium and northern France appointed?

A In May 1940.

Q How were the police matters settled with the Staff of the Military Commander of Belgium and northern France?

A It was the military administration subordinated to the military commander, divided into groups. For police matters the Group Police, the Group Law, the Group Finance,and the Group Fortune and Property was appointed.

Q What was the work of the Police Administrative Department?

A Within the military administration the Group Police concerned itself with instructions issued to the OFD - Oberfelt, and superior military commandos, and also the Security Police, and the Belgium Police.

Q Who had to carry out the executive work at that time?

A Exclusive the Secret Military Police.

Q Under whose jurisdiction was the Secret Military Police in Belgium and northern France?

A Directly superior to it the Army High Command; then to the High Command the ground troops, and the High Command of the Navy and the Airforce,

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and also to the military commanders.

Q How long did the composition of the jurisdiction remain such?

A Until May 1944, but as far as I know the transfer of the Secret Military Police into the Security Police was not carried out completely before we left.

Q We shall refer to this matter later. Is it correct to say that the military commanders were placed under the jursidiction of a commando of the Security Police, and the SD in July 1940?

A Yes.

Q What do you know about the strength of the composition and task of this commando, and perhaps about this branch office?

A There were only about twenty-five men in this commando, which was composed of some men who had been conscripted for war service, and about 16 to 20 members of the Security Police and SD. Of course, at first this small commando had no branch offices. It had been transferred or handed over by the chief of the Security Police to the Military Administration.

Q What was the name of the office of Security Police and SD in northern France?

A At first this very small office was known as "Office of Secret Military Police" in parenthesis "SS", meaning Security Police. In July 1940 the military commander sent a teletype to Heydrich asking him to augment this office to 250 men, and the office as it was then was known as the Deputy of the Chief of the Security Police, and had to be with the military commander in Belgium and northern France.

Q What was the composition of this office, not as seen in the personnel, but concerning the membership of its members to the Gestapo, the

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SD, Police, etc.?

A As far as I remember ~~about 90~~ about 90 there were of the Security Police, about 50 to 60 members of the SD, and the reminder were doubtlessly transportation personnel, auxiliary personnel assistance, and also female members.

Q Did the members of the Security Police and SD enter these offices as volunteers, or not ?

A The members of the Security Police were professional civil service , and as such they were ordered to these posts. I do not know what the relationship was concerning the SD members, but I do not assume that their membership was voluntary.

Q And those who had been conscripted?

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Will you caution the witness to testify only to what he knows and not to make assumptions.

BY DR MERKEL:

Q Do you know whether or not the people who had been conscripted for service came as volunteers or not?

A I do not know.

Q When was the office of the Superior SS and Police Leader instituted in Brussels?

A I never saw the order. As close as I can say, it was dated in May 1942. The results of this order that we could have observed were such that three times that effected the Belgium office of the higher SS and Police Leader which did not take up these activities.

Q How large was the office of the Security Police and SD in Belgium and northern France after the office had taken over the Secret

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Police - Military Police?

A I learned that eight groups GFP were to be taken over of one-hundred men each.

Q How did this transfer take place?

A Doubtlessly by reason of the military order.

Q What were the missions of the Secret Military Police and SD in Belgium and northern France?

A The Security Police had been assigned to the military administration as an executive department, and the mission resulted from the administration.

Q Later special missions you can mention with special tasks.

A The order that was given first was a Registered Immigrant and Markist office. Later the fight of the resistance movement was at it, until the government in the year 1941 ~~to 31~~ the executive was to be handled solely by the GFP, the Secret Military Police. The Security Police had to evaluate the results obtained, and to report these results in Part II, Department 4 of the RSHA, and Department 6 and 7.

Q Under whose jurisdiction was the Security Police and SD in Belgium and northern France?

A Under the jurisdiction of the military commander.

Q Not to the Security office, you said that the reports were sent to the RSHA?

A The RSHA was, of course, interested in the evaluation of this information, and as far as personnel questions were concerned the office was subordinate to the RSHA, but as special work to the military commander.

Q Orders and instructions could only be issued by the military com-

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and not by the RSHA, or by Mueller or Heydrich for example?

A Asfar as Jewish questions were concerned, the office of Keitel seemed to have discussed them beforehand, for as early as 1940 in the teletype that was sent by Keitel's office these instructions were contained.

Q Would you please answer the question once more, exactly the question whether the chief of the RSHA or the departmental chiefs of the different departments of the RSHA were able to issue binding orders and instructions to your office in Belgium and northern France?

A If you will please rectify this point. The office of the commander only existed for a very short time, and did not practically come into operation at all. The term should rather be the Deputy.

Q And how was it later?

A I am convinced that orders of the RSHA and the chiefs of the departments and the Security Police were received by military commander, but I am just as certain that any such orders received by this office were first discussed with the military commander, or with the military administration.

Q And this condition remained until the very end?

A Yes.

Q DR. MERKEL: You may adjourn.

CCAPTAIN TUBRIDY: We will adjourn now. There won't be any hearing on the SS or Gestapo witnesses tomorrow. Tomorrow the Commission will be on the High Command in Room 196, and the other hearing will be started at two o'clock in Room 398 on political leaders.

DR. MERKEL: To when will this interrogation be continued?

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CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: We will have to wait.

DR MERKEL: Until after the witnesses for the Gestapo.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Yes.

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(The Commission adjourned until 18 June 1946 at 1000 hours)

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The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of FRANZ STRAUB, taken on 17 June 1946

Charles Gallagher
Reporter (pp 1-8

CERTIFIED TO :

Joseph F Tubridy
Commissioner

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

H0961-0011

17 June 1946

COMMISSIONERS:

Captain Joseph TUBRIDY.

GESTAPO

(The Commission convened at 1600 hours)

FRANZ STRAUB, a witness took the stand and testified as follows :

BY CAPTAIN TUBRIDY:

Q. Will you give your full name, please ?

A. Franz Straub.

Q. Will you repeat this oath after me:

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I was employed there in the Police Security work, and at the outbreak of war, on 26 August 1939, I was drafted into the service, Command 7 Security Department, and I received here a rank of Senior Inspector. On 13 June I was discharged by the unit --

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Q. What was the work of the Police Administrative Department ?

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Q. Who had to carry out the executive work at that time ?

A. Exclusive the Secret Military Police.

Q. Under whose jurisdiction was the Secret Military Police in Belgium and northern France ?

A. Directly superior to it the Army High Command; then to the High Command the ground troops, and the High Command of the Navy and the Airforce, and also to the military commanders.

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Q. What was the composition of this office, not as seen in the personel, bu concerning the membership of its members to the Gestapo, the

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A As far as I remember there were about 90 of the Security Police, about 50 to 60 members of the SD, and the remainder were doubtlessly transportation personnel, auxiliary personnel assistance, and also female members.

Q Did the members of the Security Police and SD enter these offices as volunteers, or not?

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Q How did this transfer take place?

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Q What were the missions of the Secret Military Police and SD in Belgium and Northern France?

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as an executive department, and the mission resulted from the administration.

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Q And how was it later?

A I am convinced that orders of the RSHA and the chiefs of the departments and the Security Police were received by military commander, but I am just as certain that any such orders received by this office were first discussed with the military commander, or with the military administration.

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Q And this condition remained until the very end?

A Yes.

(The Commission adjourned until 18 June 1946 at 1000 hours)

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of FRANZ STRAUB, taken on 17 June 1946

CHARLES GALLAGHER
Reporter

CERTIFIED TO: JOSEPH F. TUBRIDY
Commissioner